



---

IDEM Office of Air Management

## The New Ozone Standard Fact Sheet

---

### Southwest Indiana: Evansville Area

✧ Ozone pollution (smog) is unhealthy to breathe and can harm everyone, especially those who have lung disease, children who have asthma, and the elderly

✧ Recently the EPA issued stricter standards for this pollutant to protect public health. The new standard is set at 0.08 parts per million measured over an eight hour period.

✧ The new standard will mean better health, fewer hospital and doctor visits for people with lung disease and asthma

✧ In 1997 Vanderburgh County was redesignated in attainment of the one hour standard of 0.12 parts per million of ozone. Preliminary evaluation shows Southwest Indiana may not be in attainment for the new, stricter standard. (See graph on back)

#### Impact of the New Ozone Standard

Since Evansville and the surrounding region are now in attainment of the current standard, the new stricter standard will apply to the area. Ozone readings from area monitors will be evaluated in 1997, 1998 and 1999. Before the final tally, the area could apply for "transitional" status, which would give the region more say in what measures are used to improve air quality.

#### What will change for the Evansville Area?

Vanderburgh, Posey and Warrick counties are in attainment of the current standard, but likely to be nonattainment for the new standard. Since this area will not meet the new ozone standard, an option is applying for transitional status before the final determination in 2000. An important benefit of acting before the deadline is cleaner air more quickly. In this region the community has already come together to make clean air recommendations, such as vapor recovery for gas station loading operations and more efficient spray equipment for autobody shops.

Another regulatory development will also improve the air quality in Southwest Indiana. The USEPA has proposed substantial reductions in Nitrogen Oxide emissions (NOx) in the Eastern United States including the Midwest region. NOx comes from coal burning power plants, other types of industry, cars and trucks and is a major cause of ozone pollution. Reducing NOx emitted by these sources will also improve the air in the Southwest Indiana region.

IDEM will form and work with a regional task force in this area to plan for the new ozone standard. The task force will include members of environmental groups, health associations, local government and industry from Vanderburgh, Posey and Warrick counties. The goals of the group will be to develop an understanding of the future impact of the new standards on the region and make sure the people who live in the Southwestern Indiana area have a say about the clean air measures for their community. IDEM recognizes there are community efforts already underway and will work towards cooperation rather than duplication.

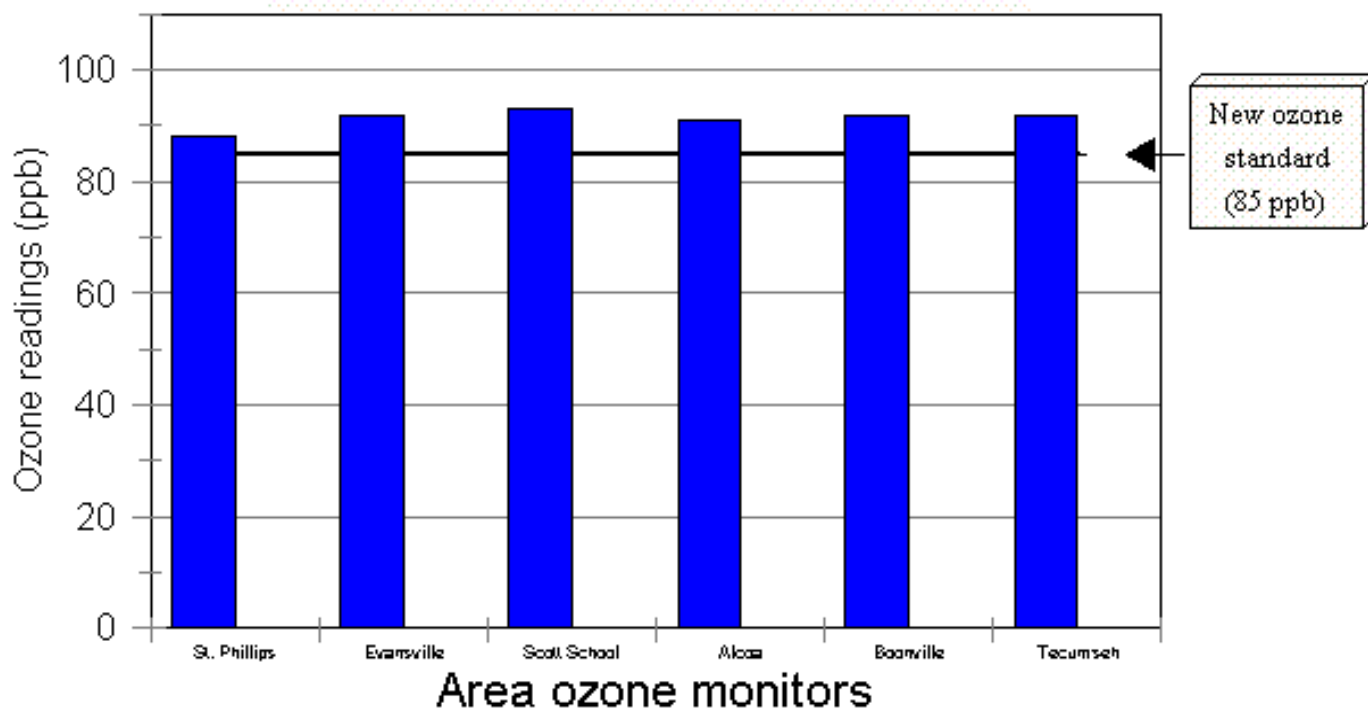
## For more information

IDEM has assigned a point person to the Southwest Indiana region. IDEM will form and work with a regional task force in this area to plan for the new ozone standard. The IDEM contact is Janet McCabe. In Indiana, you may reach her at 1-800-451-6027 ext. 3-5694. Up to date and detailed background information is also available on the Office of Air Management's Web site.

[www.ai.org/idem/oam/standard](http://www.ai.org/idem/oam/standard)

# Evansville Metropolitan Area

Preliminary data for the new ozone standard  
based on 1995-1996-1997  
(3 year ave. of 4th high 8-hour ozone concentrations)



Data from St. Phillips for 1997 only



Office of Air Management  
Outreach Branch December 1, 1997